

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

In a drive for a switching device, stored energy is converted into a rapid switching movement and a switching body is hence activated. An energy conversion occurs as a result of an underwater electrical discharge, by the application of stored electrical energy in order to evaporate a drive medium, by which an exclusive pressure is generated for operating the switching body. An advantage is presented of the possibility of the complete recondensation/recombination of the working medium and a greatly increased lifespan compared to a conventional explosive drive.